GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7323
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
VAISAKHA SAKA FUNDS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS
A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered to furnish the details of misuse of funds provided by the Union Government for `Natural Disasters` to the state Governments as reported by the Tamil Daily `Dinamani` dated March 27, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any special Committee exists in the Union Government to monitor such misuse by the State Governments; and

(d) if not, whether there is any proposal to set up such committee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c),(d) & (e): Funds released for calamity relief are to be spent according to prescribed norms and on approved items. These items/norms are based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee and they have been communicated to all the State Governments by the Union Ministry of Agriculture.The Ministryof Agriculture also call for periodic reports from the States (in a prescribed format) regarding utilisation of funds released for calamity relief. The Accountant Generals of the States have been requested to ensure that only expenditure on items approved by the Ministry of Agriculture for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities is booked under the head `2245-natural calamities`. The Accountant Generals have further been requested that instances of diversion of funds from 1990-91 onwards which might have come to their notice be intimated to the Ministry of Agriculture in order to devise appropriate methods to ensure that relief in the wake of natural calamities is reaching the affected people. These steps are intended as safeguards against misuse of funds.